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United States Department of State

Under Secretary of State
for Global Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20520-7250

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July 15, 1994

RELEASED IN FULL

TO: The Secretary

FROM: G - Timothy E. Wirth

SUBJECT: July 11 - 15, 1994

In a speech at the National Press Club on Tuesday, I pressed the point that crisis prevention is preferable to crisis response, and sought to explain what we mean when we say that sustainable development is an important element of our national security. Judging from the reaction, the speech may have been our best effort to date to explain how these issues relate to our foreign policy.

This week, we convened a meeting of experts from inside and outside the government to discuss how we can make the bio-diversity issue more understandable to non-initiates, and how we can make protection of bio-diversity a major theme and priority for the Department and Administration in the year ahead. We came up with a number of good ideas and a clear will to move quickly to prepare and then implement a detailed strategy.

On Thursday in Houston, we convened another in a series of public forums we have held across the country on the population issue. For me this is the essence of your America's Desk concept, making the Department responsive to the concerns and ideas of American citizens and informing the public of our policies and initiatives. The meeting was very successful, engaging prominent Houston business leaders as well as family planning organizations. Increasingly, top business leaders are taking an interest in the population issue; they are concerned about the relation between demographic change, poverty and lost business opportunity.

Another aspect of your America's Desk vision came up at the end of the week. I joined Al Gore and Jack Gibbons in Denver on Friday for the release of a major Administration strategy for developing and exporting new American technologies for sustainable development. The implications for the Department are important: the market for environmental goods and services

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worldwide is exploding and our embassies can play a crucial role in positioning American businesses to take advantage of this expansion.

Bob Gelbard reports that he and Louis Freeh had a very useful series of meetings in Moscow, and during other stops in Eastern Europe and the NIS, on the question of how to respond to growing concerns about international crime. Bob is pulling together a paper with Jim Steinberg which, given his interest in this issue, you might send to the President. Our paper will outline what is at stake and detail our strategy for responding to the problem in cooperation with other key governments.

John Shattuck has also just concluded a successful visit to Russia. He co-chaired a fourth round of US-Russia human rights consultations, at which he urged the Russians to clear up outstanding emigration cases to ensure full compliance with Jackson-Vanik requirements by the September Summit. Deputy Foreign Minister Lavrov said he would try to get the cases resolved quickly. In Turkey, John met with imprisoned Kurdish ex-parliamentarians of the outlawed Democracy Party and urged Turkish officials to release them or hold open trials. GOT officials asked for more time to develop a domestic consensus on managing human rights issues.

The Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund draw-down of \$20 million for Rwanda we requested last week is being reviewed by the NSC and OMB. Given the huge increase in refugees fleeing to Zaire in the last few days, our request could not be more timely. Since Wednesday, some 250,000 Rwandans have fled to the Goma area of Zaire; these are only the leading edge of a wave of as many as 750,000 more displaced persons fleeing the fighting in Rwanda. The NGO's clearly will need more resources to cope. I have urged Sandy Berger to get us a positive response as soon as possible. My concern is partly driven by the fact that there will be Congressional hearings on Rwanda next week. OMB may be a hard sell for this request given the need to husband resources for Haiti. If that proves to be the case, I will take it up with Alice Rivlin.

Next week, I will meet with 250--300 NGO representatives to help in forming a supporting network for the conference on women in development to be held in Beijing in September 1995. A similar network for this year's population conference in Cairo has been a great aid in developing our agenda for Cairo and in explaining our positions to the widest possible number of potential supporters and to possible detractors. This meeting will be held at the University of the District of Columbia and my primary role will be to underscore U.S. support for the Beijing conference.

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